REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 32-34, 39-45, 50-52, 57, 58, 63, 64, 69, and 70 are currently pending and under examination in the present application. Claims 2-31, 35-38, 46-49, 53-56, 59-62, and 65-68 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein. Claims 1, 32-34, 39-45, 50-52, 57, 58, 63, 64, 69, and 70 are indicated as allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 59-61, 65, and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wall *et al.* (Methods in Enzymology 309: 204-219, 1999), in view of Soloman *et al.* (WO 99/60024) and Muller-Lierheim (U.S. Patent 4,828,563).

Without acquiescing to the merits of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 59-61, 65, and 67. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be now moot, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

B. Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Wall *et al*. (Methods in Enzymology 309: 204-219, 1999), in view of Soloman *et al*. (WO 99/60024) and Muller-Lierheim (U.S. Patent 4,828,563) as applied to claims 59-61, 65, and 67, further in view of Nishimura *et al*. (U.S. Patent 5,583,005).

Without acquiescing to the merits of the rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 68. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be now moot, and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing claim amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

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202-739-3000

Respectfully submitted,

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